



3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division



Office of Public Affairs

3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq
APO AE 09331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 20100423--3

April 23, 2010

3rd BCT leaves its mark

by Pfc. Khorl Johnson, 3rd Brigade Combat Team
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, added a little color to Kuwait when a few of its Soldiers painted a T-wall mural to commemorate the brigade's first stop on its way to a year-long advise and assist mission in the southern region of Iraq.

A T-wall is a large steel-reinforced, concrete barricade shaped like an upside-down “T”. These 10-foot walls provide protection against indirect fire, but they also serve as a canvas for Soldiers to paint murals of their unit. This is a camp tradition that allows units to display their pride for all to see.

Command Sgt. Maj. Miles Wilson, brigade command sergeant major, 3rd BCT hand-picked a group of Soldiers for the task. The group started with Spc. Brandon Elrod, of Champaign, Ill., petroleum, oils, and lubrication specialist, Troop D, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd BCT, and Pfc. Lisette Ocasio, of Meriden, Conn., a food service specialist, Troop D, 4th Sqdn. 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd BCT.

Both Soldiers completed a similar project for the brigade during its last cycle at the National Training Center, so it was no surprise when they were tasked for this project, said Elrod.

To complete the team, Pfc. Ricardo Ayala, of San Diego, Calif., food service specialist, Troop D, 4th Sqdn. 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd BCT, and Pfc. Dawayne Davis, of Placerville, Calif., track-vehicle repair, Troop D, 4th Sqdn. 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd BCT, joined the group.

After the team was briefed on what they were expected to accomplish, they were given art supplies and sent to begin the project.

Everyone brought something to the table. Even though some had more of an artistic background than others, everyone was able to put forth an effort to create the final product, said Elrod.

The only obstacle the group faced was easily taken care of with a little creativity and resourcefulness.

The art supplies the group received did not include smaller, detail brushes. In order to overcome this, the team used Q-tips and brushes they made with pencils, tape, and cigarette filters.

“We used pretty much everything we could get our hands on,” said Elrod.

Through teamwork and a little inventiveness, the team was able to complete the wall with about 20 hours of work.

The finished project displays the 3rd BCT logo with the words “Iron Strong” stretching across the top, and a list of all of the deployments that 3rd BCT has been part of since Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

Elrod, Ocasio, Ayala, and Davis were given the chance to leave the brigade's fingerprint in Kuwait.

“It's an honor for them,” said 1st Sgt. Dwain Johns, company first sergeant, Troop D, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd BCT. “They left a mark, more than likely, that no one else will probably be able to leave, because this will probably be that last time that this brigade comes here.”

Since the wall lists the 3rd BCT's past deployments, it serves as a tribute, not only to the brigade, but to the 3rd BCT's entire history during OIF.

“It's a reminder of the sacrifices this brigade has made, and of what our battle buddies, who couldn't be here, have done. So that's a great mark for everyone to see,” said Johns.



Team

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Spc. Brandon Elrod, of Champaign, Ill., petroleum, oils and lubrication specialist, Pfc. Dawayne Davis, of Placerville, Calif., track-vehicle repair,

Pfc. Lisette Ocasio, of Meriden, Conn., food service specialist, and Pfc. Ricardo Ayala, food service specialist, of San Diego, Calif., sit in front of the brigade T-wall mural they painted on Eisenhower Rd, in Camp Buehring Kuwait, April 4. All the Soldiers are assigned to Troop D, 4th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. (Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)



Focus.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Spc. Brandon Elrod, of Champaign, Ill., petroleum, oils, and lubrication specialist, draws out the word “Iron Strong” across the top of the brigade's T-wall mural, while Pfc. Dawayne Davis, of Placerville, Calif., track-vehicle repair, finishes the center of the brigade logo, April 4. Both Soldiers are assigned to Troop D, 4th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. (Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)



Ivy.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Pfc. Dawayne Davis, of Placerville, Calif., track-vehicle repair, Troop D, 4th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, uses a Q-tip to straighten out the lines of the

ivy within the 3rd BCT's logo, April 4. (Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)



Q-tip.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Pfc. Lisette Ocasio, of Meriden, Conn., food service specialist, Troop D, 4th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's, uses a Q-tip to paint the “3” in the brigade logo of the 3rd BCT on a T-wall mural in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, April 4. (Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)